



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A LOTUS

the HIT AGENDA

ISSUE #1 of 3

VINCE HERNANDEZ
OLIVER NOME
EMILIO LOPEZ



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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A LOTUS

the
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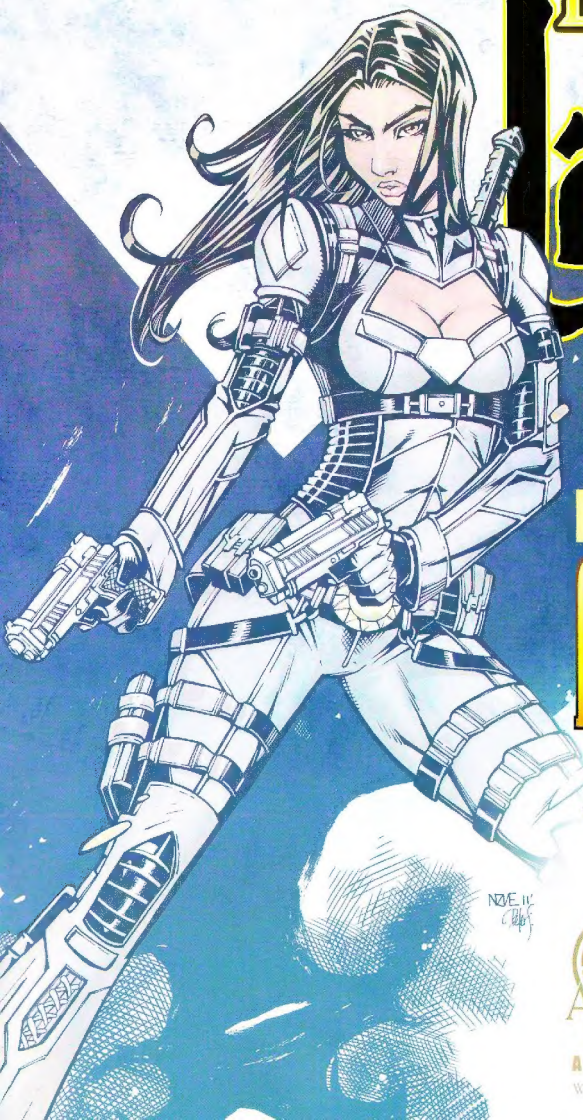
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LETTERING

JOSH REED



PART 1 OF 3

The story so far...

The trail of "The Hit List Agenda" burns deeper across the globe, as the Cordova drug cartel in Colombia finds itself dominating their rivals with the help of their own capable executive assistant, Orchid. Yet, bloody secrets of the past threaten to haunt the future of the Cordova enterprise—no matter how far they must reach.

The Republic of Iraia: The world's second-most populated country—a democracy. But a land fraught with great peril and conflict. With the fate of over one billion citizens under its banner, many "unknown" forces at play dictate the terms of the country's decisions. Forces which blur the lines between good and evil...



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NEW DELHI, INDIA. NOW.



THE ISRAELI EMBASSY
EMPLOYED COMPETENT
ENOUGH GUARDS AT
THE FRONT GATE.

...BUT THE MALE MIND IS EASILY
DIVERTED. A PUSH-UP BRA CAN BE
DEADLY WHEN USED PROPERLY.

A SPLIT SECOND WAS
ALL I NEEDED TO
RAISE MY PISTOL.



KILL SHOT.

THE SECOND GUARD
NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.
BEFORE HIS MIND WAS
ABLE TO PROCESS WHAT
WAS HAPPENING, I SHOT
HIM IN THE TEMPLE AS I
EXITED THE VEHICLE.



THEY WERE EXPECTING
RADICAL EXTREMISTS, NOT AN
ATTRACTIVE INDIAN GIRL.

ALWAYS THEIR
FIRST MISTAKE.

I REMEMBER THE BLAST WARMED MY BACK.
IT WAS A SIZEABLE EXPLOSION FOR SUCH A
SMALL EURO CAR. THE T.N.T. HELPED.

THEIR LOBBY LEVEL CONTAINED THREE ARMED GUARDS. ALL WERE MOST LIKELY ON THEIR WAY OUT TO RESPOND TO THE BLAST. BUT THAT WAS OK...


...I WAS GOING TO THE THIRD FLOOR.

THE NEXT PART TOOK GOOD TIMING...

BOOM

ZIPP

...AND FLAME RETARDANT CLOTHING. THE NANO-FIBER SUIT WAS QUITE PRICEY, BUT IT HAS PROVED ITS VALUE MANY TIMES OVER.



MY INTEL TOLD ME THE
AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE WAS
SOMEWHERE ON THIS FLOOR.

I CARRIED ENOUGH
ROUNDS ON ME TO
TAKE OUT THE ENTIRE
LEVEL IF I COULDN'T
MAKE HIS IDENTITY
QUICK ENOUGH.

1:52

I CHECKED
MY WATCH. I HAD
JUST UNDER TWO
MINUTES BEFORE
THEY'D ARRIVE.

I TOOK OUT ANOTHER
ARMED GUARD AS WELL AS
AN UNLUCKY EMBASSY
CLERK. MAN OR WOMAN-- IT
DIDN'T MATTER BACK THEN.

1:27

BUT NEVER CHILDREN.
I DID HAVE RULES.

SEVEN DEAD BODIES
LATER, I FOUND THE
ISRAELI AMBASSADOR
HIDING BEHIND A DESK.

I PLANTED A HIGH-
POWERED SEMITAX EXPLOSIVE,
JUST IN CASE.

I TOOK HIM OUT WITH
A MINUTE TO SPARE.

DEED DONE.
I CHECKED MY
WATCH AGAIN.

0:40

HE KNEW WHY I WAS THERE.
HE KNEW I WAS INSURANCE,
TO MAKE SURE HE WAS
ELIMINATED.

WHAT I STATED EARLIER ABOUT
RADICAL EXTREMISTS, WELL, THEY
WORRY ABOUT THEM FOR GOOD
REASON, AND ONE POSITIVE
THING ABOUT EXTREMISTS IS—
THEY'RE ALWAYS PUNCTUAL.

AND NOW THANKS TO MY WORK,
THE LOBBY GUARDS WERE RUNNING UP
THE STAIRWELL BETWEEN THE SECOND
AND THIRD FLOORS ON THEIR WAY TO
TRY AND PROTECT THE MARK'S BUSY
TOOK OUT A MINUTE EARLIER. THE
LOBBY WAS UNPROTECTED.

...IT WAS TIME FOR
ME TO EXIT.

WHICH MEANT...

0:05



ALWAR, INDIA. THREE
YEARS EARLIER.

MY PREVIOUS LIFESTYLE WAS NOT IN LINE WITH
WHAT SOCIETY DEEMS ACCEPTABLE. I'M WELL
AWARE OF THIS. HOWEVER, I WAS BORN INTO IT.

MY FATHER TOOK MARKS, AND HIS FATHER
BEFORE HIM. MY FAMILY TREE IS SOILED WITH
THE BLOOD OF HUNDREDS, MAYBE MORE. SO
WHAT OTHER CHOICE WAS AVAILABLE TO ME...

...BUT TO CONTINUE
TO GROW ITS ROOTS.

I KILLED MY FIRST
ANIMAL WHEN I WAS
EIGHT. A MOUNTAIN
LION, WITH A DAGGER
FATHER GAVE ME ON
MY BIRTHDAY.

TOOK OUT MY FIRST ADULT MALE
WHEN I WAS ELEVEN-- A YEAR
AFTER MY FATHER'S PASSING.

THIS TIME, MY WEAPON OF CHOICE WAS A BOW AND
ARROW. I DEDICATED THE ACT TO HIS HONOR.

ELEVEN YEARS OLD.

STORIES REGARDING MY KILLS WERE
EMBELLISHED THROUGHOUT MY VILLAGE, AND
THAT IS WHEN MY LEGEND BEGAN TO GROW...

...AND MY CONFIDENCE BLOOMED.

FROM THAT POINT ON,
I STOPPED COUNTING.

MISS
RANI, MY
LADY. #

*TRANSLATED
FROM HINDI.

MY LADY,
MR. KHAN IS
HERE TO SEE
YOU.

PLEASE, YOU
MAY CALL ME
NIMISH.

GREETINGS,
MR. KHAN. AND
YOU MAY CALL
ME RANI.

AH, 'QUEEN,' AN EXCELLENT
CODENAME IF I MAY SAY SO.
ONE BEFITTING A WOMAN OF
YOUR... TALENTS.

SO, WHAT
CONTRACT HAVE YOU
BROUGHT ME NOW
THAT REQUIRES MY
TALENTS?

HIS NAME IS
VIRAT YADAV. A
MAJOR PLAYER IN
BOTH CORPORATE
BUSINESS AND THE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. HIS
ACTIONS HAVE BEGUN
TO OUTWEIGH HIS
RELEVANCE, IF YOU
SEE MY POINT.

I DO.

YOU SHOULD
KNOW HOWEVER, HIS
HEAD IS ALREADY ON
THE MARKET. HE WON'T
FALL EASILY. HE'S WELL
GUARDED. WE'VE
PREPARED A FULL
DOSSIER ON HIS
SECURITY.

ISHWAR WILL SEE
YOU OUT. PLEASE
LEAVE YOUR DOWN
PAYMENT WITH
HIM.

YOU MAY SAVE
IT. I PREFER TO
DO MY OWN
HOMEWORK.

PERHAPS, I WAS
TOO CONFIDENT
BACK THEN.

I TRACKED HIS MOVEMENTS FOR WEEKS FROM
AFAR. STUDIED HIS HOME, HIS SECURITY DETAILS,
HOMES, THEIR MOVEMENTS, EVERYTHING.

I THOUGHT I COULD
HANDLE ANYTHING.

ANYONE.

WHAT I DIDN'T
ANTICIPATE.

FFFFFT

WAS HER
WAKING UP.

NO...



WHAT
HAVE I...?

LOTUS, ARE YOU
UP AGAIN? I TOLD
YOU YOUNG LADY,
THEY ARE ONLY
NIGHTMARES--

MY... MY
BABY! WHAT
HAVE YOU DONE?
**MURDERER!! SHE
HAS... SHE HAS
DONE NOTHING
TO YOU!**

IT WAS... A
MISTAKE.

I'M...
I'M...

FREEZE!

**SHE'S UP
HERE!**

BAM BAM BAM

I...

WHY I COULD NOT
SAY THE WORDS THEN,
I WILL NEVER KNOW.

TWO YEARS
AGO.

NEVER A CHILD.

IT WAS MY ONLY RULE,
AND I BROKE IT.

AND IN TURN,
IT BROKE ME.

LOOKING INSIDE, ALL
I SAW WAS HER FACE.

TO END THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO'VE
CHOSEN THEIR PATH INTO THE DARK ABYSS,
I DEEMED ACCEPTABLE. BUT THIS? I
DENIED HER OF A CHOICE ALTOGETHER.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT...
SOMETHING. AND I HATED IT.

I HATED THE FEELING...
OF FEELING.



I KNEW NIMISH WOULD COME AFTER ME FOR FAILING TO TAKE OUT VIRAT.

DO IT.

HE WAS IMPULSIVE, A TRAIT I INSTANTLY NOTED AS ONE I WOULD EXPLOIT.

I KNEW HE WOULDN'T SEND HIS MESSAGE QUIETLY.

I TOOK OUT THE FIRST TWO EASY ENOUGH.

HUM?

THE OTHER TWO, WHO NO DOUBT NONCHALANTLY DECIDED TO BREAK IN FROM THE FRONT OF MY HOME, RECEIVED MUCH WORSE.

THE GAS WAS A RAPID-ACTING COMPOUND, AND IF I HAD THE CHOICE, I'D HAVE TAKEN THE SNIPER BULLET.

SHII--

THE LAST GUY...

...HE KNEW WHERE
TO LOOK...

TURN
AROUND AND
DROP THE
WEAPON!

ROAR

ARRRGH!

ALRIGHT.
YOU KNOW, YOU
GOT IT WORSE
THAN ALL OF
THEM.

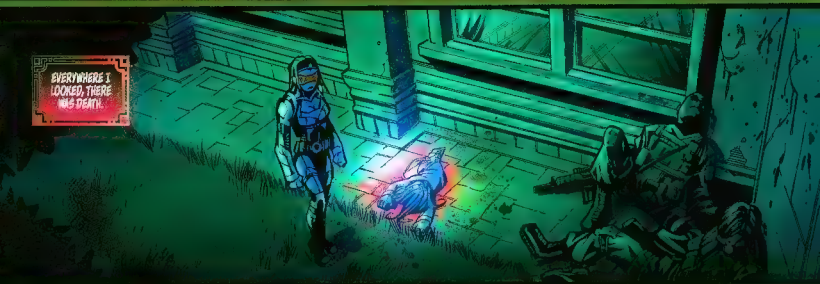
WHAT--

...BUT HE DIDN'T QUITE
REALIZE WHAT WAS THERE
WAITING FOR HIM.

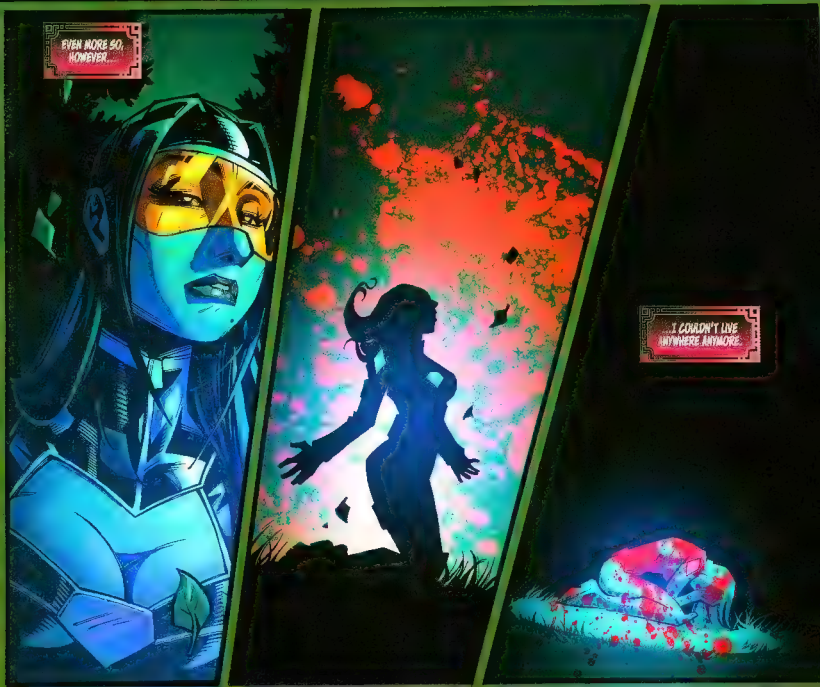


I COULDN'T LIVE
HERE ANYMORE.

THAT MUCH
WAS SURE.



EVERYWHERE I
LOOKED, THERE
WAS DEATH.

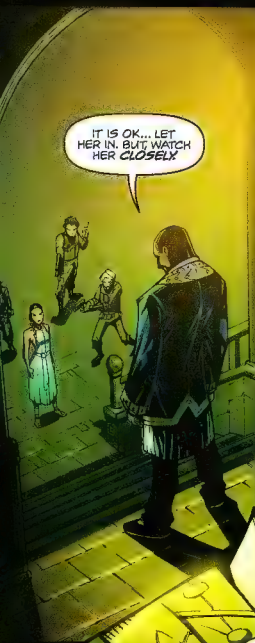


EVEN MORE SO,
HOWEVER...

I COULDN'T LIVE
ANYWHERE ANYMORE.

THE DEMONS GROWING INSIDE
ME FORCED MY HAND. I DECIDED
I NEEDED TO END IT MYSELF TO
EXCHANGE THEM FROM ME.

NOT
ANOTHER
STEP!



IT IS OK... LET
HER IN. BUT WATCH
HER *CLOSELY*.



YOU RETURN
TO MY HOME--
UNARMED? YOU, THE
MURDERER OF MY
ONLY DAUGHTER.
DO YOU WANT
TO DIE?

I AM
READY FOR
WHATEVER
FATE YOU
DECIDE FOR
ME.

WHAT... IS
YOUR NAME,
WOMAN?



I INTENDED TO KILL YOU.
NOT YOUR DAUGHTER. THAT
IS MY MISTAKE I MUST LIVE
WITH, AND I AM PREPARED TO
PAY THE CONSEQUENCES
FOR MY ACTIONS.

THAT IS THE PRICE OF
FAILURE MY INDUSTRY DEMANDS
OF ME... MY CONSCIENCE,
DEMANDS OF ME.



EVERYWHERE I WENT, I SAW YOUR DAUGHTER'S FACE.

I'M SO... SO SORRY MY ACTIONS HAVE LED TO THIS.

AS I TOLD HIM WHO I WAS, I REMEMBER THINKING THIS WAS THE FIRST PERSON I'VE EVER TOLD SUCH THINGS TO. INTIMATE DETAILS OF MY PROFESSION.

TO HIS CREDIT, HE LISTENED TO EVERY WORD WITHOUT DISPLAYING JUDGMENT--OR PERHAPS HE JUST DIDN'T SHOW IT. ANY ANGER WITHIN, HE MUST HAVE BEEN HOLDING BACK WITH EVERY FIBER OF HIS BEING.

...
COME WITH ME, I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

NASHI, DASHI, IT'S OK, SHE MAY FOLLOW ME ALONE FROM HERE.

BUT SIR--

DID YOU NOT HEAR ME?



RANI, DO YOU
KNOW WHAT MY
DAUGHTER'S NAME WAS?

IT WAS
LOTUS.

MY WIFE AND I,
WE FOUGHT OVER THE
NAME FOR MONTHS.
BUT EVENTUALLY I
WON HER OVER ON
LOTUS.

THE LOTUS FLOWER
IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER
DUE TO ITS EVOLUTION, IT
IS BIRTHED IN DIRTY AND
INFESTED WATERS, BUT
RISES TO THE SURFACE,
PURE OF FORM.



MUCH LIKE
YOURSELF.

I AM IN
NO WAY PURE
OF FORM.

AH, BUT YOU
SEE, YOU HAVE NOT
REACHED YOUR FULL
BLOOM YET. AND I
BELIEVE YOU COMING
TO ME IN SACRIFICE
IS PROOF OF
THIS.

THERE IS ONLY ONE
REASON I NAMED MY
DAUGHTER LOTUS, AND
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO
WITH THE FLOWER OR
IT'S FRUITION.

I AM A MAN OF
PRINCIPLE ABOVE ALL,
AND MY DUTY WILL ALWAYS
BE TO THIS COUNTRY, AND
SINCE MY WIFE PASSED, IT'S
BECOME MY LIFE'S SERVICE.
THE LOTUS IS OUR NATIONAL
FLOWER, AND SHE WAS A
LIVING TRIBUTE TO OUR
GREAT COUNTRY.




IT MAKES YOU...
UNCOMFORTABLE
HEARING THESE DETAILS
ABOUT HER, AM I
CORRECT, RANI?

I HAVE MADE
A HABIT OF
IGNORING THE
MORE-- HUMAN--
ASPECTS OF
PEOPLE'S LIVES.

AND YET, MY
DAUGHTER'S
MURDER HAS
DRIVEN YOU
HERE?

LIKE I SAID
IT CHANGED...
EVERYTHING.

YOU WILL, SOON
ENOUGH. TELL ME, HAVE
YOU EVER HEARD THE
TITLE, **EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT**?



YOU WERE BRAVE
TO TURN YOURSELF
IN TO ME. YOU **MUST
KNOW** I COULD JUST
AS EASILY KILL YOU
FOR WHAT YOU
HAVE DONE.

HOWEVER, MY
DECISION IS TO
ALLOW YOU TO LIVE,
AND TO OFFER YOU
MY FORGIVENESS...
FOR SERVICE.



WHAT?

YOU HEARD ME
CORRECTLY. I WILL
SPARE YOUR LIFE, BUT
I ASK OF SOMETHING IN
RETURN. I ASK THAT
YOU TAKE UP HER NAME
IN HER HONOR, AND
HELP ME RESTORE
THE SAME IN OUR
NATION.

I DON'T...
UNDERSTAND.

SIX MONTHS AGO...

THEY'VE JUST
ARRIVED.

EXCELLENT. I
CANNOT EMPHASIZE
ENOUGH HOW IMPORTANT
THIS MEETING IS TO OUR
PLANS. HIS INVESTMENT
CAPITAL IS NECESSARY
FOR OUR NEXT PHASE.
THE EMBASSY TRAIL
CANNOT LEAD BACK
TO US.

YOU'VE STUDIED
HIS NUMBERS
ADEQUATELY?

YES, I HATE
SURPRISES. I KNOW
EVERYTHING THERE
IS TO KNOW ABOUT
HIS FINANCES AS
WELL AS ALL OF
HIS HOLDINGS.

YOU'VE PROVEN
YOURSELF USEFUL
BEYOND MERE
BLOODSHED IN JUST
A SHORT TIME,
LOTUS.

I'M... PROUD
OF YOU.

THANK YOU, VIRAT.
YOUR GRATITUDE... I
WELCOME IT.

I'M GLAD
NOW, IT'S TIME.
LET THEM IN.

MY RECON DIDN'T REVEAL THE WOMAN WITH CHING. I WILL MAKE SURE TO LOOK INTO HER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS MEETING...

VIRAT, MY DEAR FRIEND, IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.

...I HATE SURPRISES.

TO BE CONTINUED!

THE HIT LIST AGENDA

Aspen's Executive Assistant
Event Continues!

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A Lotus

#2



The Hit List Agenda Checklist

JUNE 2011

☒ EA: IRIS #0 (PRELUDE)

JULY 2011

☒ EA: IRIS #1

☒ EA: ORCHID #1

☒ EA: LOTUS #1

☐ EA: VIOLET #1

AUGUST 2011

☐ EA: IRIS #2

☐ EA: ORCHID #2

☐ EA: LOTUS #2

☐ EA: VIOLET #2

SEPTEMBER 2011

☐ EA: IRIS #3

☐ EA: ORCHID #3

☐ EA: LOTUS #3

☐ EA: VIOLET #3

OCTOBER 2011

☐ EA: IRIS #4

NOVEMBER 2011

☐ EA: IRIS #5

HER INNOCENCE CAN BRING YOUR DEATH!

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COLORS: EMILIO LOPEZ



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A Lotus



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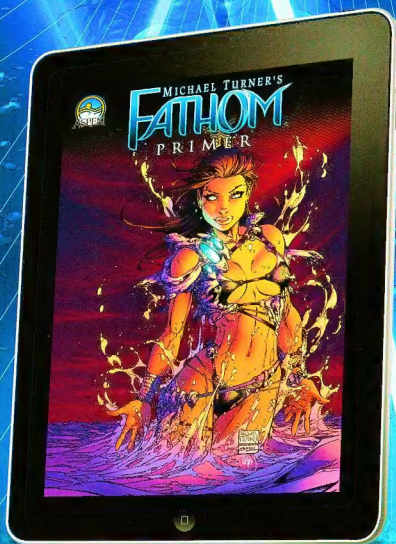
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SHE'S A SECRETARY, BODYGUARD, AND ASSASSIN ALL ROLLED INTO ONE...



DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE OTHER GREAT EA CHAPTERS!

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